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# Message Text

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71
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-12 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 SS-15 RSR-01 /102 W
---------- 109005
R 171722Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8005
INFO GOV PANCANAL
USCINCSO
DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 3760

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, PN
SUBJ: TORRIJOS' LETTER OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT POLICY

REF: PANAMA 3538

SUMMARY: GENERAL TORRIJOS WROTE TO THE PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE AND TO PANAMA'S ATTORNEY GENERAL ON JUNE 20, 1973, EXPRESSING DETERMINATION TO "STOP THIS UNSCRUPULOUS COMMERCE AND ASSIST THOSE COUNTRIES....CONCERNED WITH ERADICATION OF THIS FILTHY BUSINESS." RE PROSECUTION OF TRAFFICKERS HE WROTE "WE PREFER EXCESSIVE ZEAL TO NEGLIGENT INDULGENCE." TORRIJOS EMPHASIZED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "WILL APPLY THE FULL VIGOR OF THE LAW AGAINST ANY OFFICIAL, PERSON OR ORGANIZATION THAT VIOLATES DRUG LAWS." END SUMMARY.

1. AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE LETTER WHICH WAS OBTAINED BY DEA AGENT HEATH FROM LT. COL. NORIEGA, G-2 OF THE NATIONAL GUARD FOLLOWS.

2. QUOTE: MESSRS. RAMON PALACIOS P., PRESIDENT OF THE
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SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE, AND OLMEDO MIRANDA,

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ATTORNEY GENERAL. DEAR SIRS:

WITH REFERENCE TO THE POLICY THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT MUST SUPPORT WITH REGARD TO THE TRAFFIC, POSSESSION AND USE OF DANGEROUS AND NARCOTIC DRUGS, I WISH TO POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING:

1. I BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT OUR LEGAL MEASURES NOW IN FORCE ARE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG AND EFFECTIVE IN ORDER TO INSURE THAT, PROPERLY APPLIED, WE CAN STOP THIS UNSCRUPULOUS COMMERCE AND ASSIST THOSE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD THAT ARE CONCERNED WITH ERADICATING THIS FILTHY BUSINESS.

2. WE MUST BE WATCHFUL THAT THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES DO NOT FALL FOR LEGAL SUBTERFUGES THAT ARE PRESENTED BY THE IMMORAL ATTORNEYS WHO DEVOTE THEMSELVES TO DEFENDING THOSE MERCENARIES OF VICE. IN THIS MATTER, WE PREFER EXCESSIVE ZEAL TO NEGLIGENT INDULGENCE.

3. WE CONSIDER THAT WE MUST CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN OUR SUPPORT TO AGENCIES SUCH AS THE BUREAU OF NARCOTICS OF THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ANY OTHER SIMILAR NORTH AMERICAN OR FOREIGN ENTITY, WHICH AT TIMES HAVE EXCESSIVELY MIXED POLITICAL INTERESTS WITH THE TRUE PROPHYLAXIS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME, AS ONE IMMORALITY DOES NOT JUSTIFY ANOTHER. ALTHOUGH THE PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION AND VICE IS ENORMOUSLY GREATER AMONG THEIR PEOPLE THAN OUR FAR MORE CLEAN AND HONEST PEOPLE, WE ARE CONCERNED AS MUCH OR MORE THAN THEY THAT THIS DOES NOT UNDERMINE OR PENETRATE THE MORAL RESERVE THAT IS YOUTH.

4. WE MUST EMPHASIZE AND MAKE IT CLEAR THAT OUR REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WILL APPLY THE FULL VIGOR OF THE LAW AGAINST ANY OFFICIAL, PERSON OR ORGANIZATION IN OUR COUNTRY THAT ATTEMPTS TO VIOLATE THE REGULATIONS CONCERNING THIS MATTER. WE SHALL BE ON GUARD WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH AND WILL COOPERATE WITH ALL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH THIS BLIGHT.
VERY TRULY YOURS, BRIG. GEN. OMAR TORRIJOS H.,
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COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD. END QUOTE.

3. LETTER IN SPANISH LANGUAGE FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.
SAYRE

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED
**Concepts:** n/a
**Control Number:** n/a
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**Draft Date:** 17 JUL 1973
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**Decaption Note:**
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004
**Disposition Event:**
**Disposition History:** n/a
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**Review Comment:** n/a
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**Status:** NATIVE
**Subject:** TORRIJOS' LETTER OF NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT POLICY
**TAGS:** SNAR, PN
**To:** STATE
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